

SECRET

ROM  
COVERT AIR RECEPTION

APPENDIX IX

SECOND EDITION

JAN 1962

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ABSOLUTE ALTITUDE:** Altitude with respect to the surface of the earth as differentiated from altitude with respect to sea level.

**ACTIVE OPPOSITION:** Those elements of any security system which may seek to prevent or exploit clandestine activity in a given operational area. The security system of the operational area includes the professional security force; auxiliary security bodies, such as police and other law enforcement agencies; and voluntary and involuntary informants.

**AERIAL PICKUP:** Ground-to-air transfer of personnel or material to an aircraft in flight without landing the aircraft to effect on-loading.

**AGENT:** (1) An individual recruited for a clandestine or secret purpose, (2) a person engaged in clandestine operational duties who is witting of their illegal or clandestine nature.

**AGENT NET:** An organization for clandestine purposes which operates under the direction of a principal agent.

**AIR ABORT:** To turn back from an aerial mission before its completion for reasons other than enemy action.

**AIRBORNE:** A term applied to an aircraft from the instant it becomes entirely sustained by air until it ceases to be so sustained.

**AIR DELIVERY:** A method of air movement wherein personnel and material are unloaded from aircraft in flight. Synonymous with AIR DROP.

**AIR DROP:** The delivery of personnel or material, generally by parachute, from aircraft.

**AIR OPERATION:** An action involving the use of aircraft for the covert delivery or recovery of material, personnel, propaganda and information, generally to or from denied areas.

**AIR SUPPLY:** The delivery by air of material to a drop or landing zone.

**ANTI-AIR:** A term applied to ground-to-air, ship-to-air, and air-to-air weapons and equipment for actively combatting aerial targets.

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**APPROACH/TAKEOFF CLEARANCE:** The clearance required over obstacles located outward from the ends of the landing strip, expressed as a ratio between the height of the obstacles and the distance from the ends of the landing strip.

**AZIMUTH:** (1) A bearing in the horizontal plane, usually expressed as an angle, and measured clockwise from true north, grid north, or magnetic north, from 0° to 360°. Bearing is often identified with azimuth, which is really a species of bearing. (2) Short for azimuth angle.

**BASE:** A locality from which operations are projected or supported.

**BLIND DROP:** An air drop without the benefit of a reception committee, e.g., the initial air infiltration of a principal agent.

**BREVITY CODE:** A code which has as its sole purpose the shortening of messages rather than concealment of their content.

**CACHE:** (1) To hide materials required for, or in support of, clandestine operations. (2) Materials so hidden.

**CARGO DROP:** Introduction of cargo into an area by parachute from an aircraft in flight.

**CIPHER:** Any cryptographic system in which arbitrary symbols or groups of symbols are substituted for units of plain text of regular length, usually single letters or digits, or in which units of plain text are transposed, or both, in accordance with certain predetermined rules. See CRYPTOSYSTEM.

**CLANDESTINE COMMUNICATIONS:** Any system of information interchange between personnel or installations operating clandestinely. Includes cut-outs, contacts, and drops as well as written messages and radio communications.

**CLANDESTINE OPERATION:** An activity conducted secretly by an intelligence service when open and legal means are not available to accomplish the desired purpose. Differs from a covert operation in that all phases of the activity are covered or concealed from outsiders.

**COMPARTMENTATION:** The restriction of information to a need-to-know basis.

**COVER:** (1) Protective guise used by a person, organization, or installation to prevent identification with clandestine activities. (2) Shelter or protection, either natural or artificial.

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**COVERT OPERATION:** An activity conducted by an intelligence organization in such a manner as to permit plausible denial by its sponsor.

**CRYPTOSYSTEM:** The associated items of cryptomaterial and the methods and rules by which these items are used as a unit to provide a single means of encryption and decryption. It embraces the general cryptosystem and the specific keys essential to the employment of the general cryptosystem.

**CUTOUT:** An intermediary used to obviate direct contact of two persons. Devices which have a like function, such as dead drops, may be called cutout devices.

**DATE/TIME GROUP:** The date and time, expressed in digits and zone suffix. Expressed as six digits followed by zone suffix; first pair of digits denoting the date, second pair the hours, third pair the minutes, e.g., 062120Z.

**DEAD DROP:** An unattended repository facilitating clandestine transfer of communications or material, providing a cutout between human elements of a clandestine organization.

**DECEPTION:** Activity designed to mislead an individual or group.

**DENIED AREA:** A country exercising rigid controls over entry, travel and exit; usually describing those countries under communist control.

**DISPERSION:** The length of the ground pattern formed by the exit time of the parachutists and/or cargo containers.

**DIVERSION:** The act of drawing the attention and force of the opposition from the point of the principal operation.

**DOGLEG COURSE:** A course or line of flight with one or more angles in it.

**DROP:** (1) See DEAD DROP. (2) Delivery by air of personnel and material.

**DROP ALTITUDE:** The altitude of an aircraft above the ground at the time of dispatch of personnel or cargo.

**DROP ZONE (DZ):** A specified area upon which personnel and material are dropped by parachute.

**ELECTRONIC RECEPTION:** The use of electronic homing devices to guide an aircraft to a drop zone.

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**ENCRYPT:** See CRYPTOSYSTEM.

**ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL (ETA):** In air navigation, the predicted time at which an aircraft in flight will reach some point, usually its destination.

**EXFILTRATION:** The clandestine removal of personnel or material from denied areas.

**FORWARD THROW:** The horizontal distance traveled by a parachutist or cargo container from the point of exit from an aircraft to the point of full parachute deployment.

**FREE DROP:** The dropping of material from an aircraft in flight without the use of parachutes. A field expedient generally limited to periods of daylight and non-fragile items of equipment.

**G-FORCE:** The measure or value of a force required to accelerate or decelerate any freely movable body at the rate of approximately 32.16 feet per second per second. In referring to G-forces exerted on the human body, the direction of the force is referred to as so many G's of footward acceleration or headward acceleration, of chest-to-back acceleration or back-to-chest acceleration.

**GLIDE/CLIMB RATIO:** The relationship between the gain or loss of altitude of an aircraft in flight to the horizontal distance traveled.

**GO-AROUND:** To go around a landing strip without, or instead of, landing on the initial approach.

**GRADIENT:** As applied to the surface of a landing zone, the rise or fall of the strip or runway from the general horizontal level. Expressed as a percentage, e.g., 2 feet rise or fall in each 100 feet of horizontal distance would be expressed as a 2% gradient.

**GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT, or Z in communications):** The mean solar time at the Greenwich meridian.

**GROUND FOG:** A shallow fog that blankets the surface.

**HEADING:** In air navigation, the horizontal direction in which an aircraft is pointed, i.e., the direction of its longitudinal axis, usually expressed as an angle measured clockwise from some reference line, such as true north, to the longitudinal axis. An aircraft's heading usually does not coincide with its track because of drift or yaw.

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**HIGH VELOCITY DROP:** The act or process of delivering material from aircraft in flight wherein the rate of descent is greater than that obtained utilizing conventional cargo parachute methods (low velocity drop), but less than terminal velocity (free drop). The high velocity drop system consists of retarding means to limit the rate of descent, stabilizing means (usually combined with the retarding means) to orient the load to strike on a predetermined surface, and sufficient cushioning material to absorb the shock upon impact and preserve the load from damage.

**HOMING BEACON:** A kind of radio beacon, on the ground, that gives a bearing to an aircraft equipped with either a radio compass or homing adapter.

**IMPACT AREA:** An area within the limits of a drop zone wherein parachuted personnel or cargo containers are to make contact with the ground.

**INFILTRATION:** Placing an agent or other person in a target area in hostile territory. Usually involves crossing a frontier or other guarded line.

**INITIAL APPROACH:** The approach of an aircraft preparatory to beginning landing procedure.

**INITIAL POINT (IP):** A well defined terrain feature, easily distinguishable visually and used by an aircrew to confirm their position and from which a timed run on a predetermined heading is made to the reception site. Synonymous with TARGET APPROACH POINT (TAP).

**LANDING ROLL:** The landing run of an aircraft after touchdown on ground, water, snow, or ice, under the impetus of its landing speed.

**LANDING STRIP:** That portion of a landing zone, delineated by markers, upon which landing aircraft will touchdown, roll, and taxi. See LANDING ZONE.

**LANDING ZONE (LZ):** A geographical location selected for the conduct of air landing operations. See LANDING STRIP.

**LIVE DROP:** A person used, wittingly or unwittingly, as an intermediary in the transfer of clandestine communications or materials from one person to another. A live drop most commonly does not move the communications or materials from one place to another.

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**LOW VELOCITY DROP:** The act or process of delivering personnel or material from aircraft in flight, utilizing sufficient parachute retardation to prevent injury or damage upon ground impact. See HIGH VELOCITY DROP.

**MINIMUM SAFE ALTITUDE (MSA):** The lowest altitude at which an aircraft can safely be flown.

**MOON PERIOD (MOON PHASE, LIGHT OF THE MOON):** The period in each calendar month when the moon, in phase and conjunction with the planets, is visible and provides sufficient moonlight during hours of darkness to permit minimum safe altitude flying.

**OPEN APPROACH:** A term applied to the perimeter sectors of a reception site that are free of terrain or vegetation that would block the aircrew's vision of zone markings.

**OVERFLIGHT:** Covert air operations which involve overflying hostile borders for intelligence purposes.

**PARACHUTE DRIFT FACTOR:** A factor used in conjunction with ground wind velocity to compute wind drift of parachuted personnel and cargo. The factor is the total time, expressed in seconds, that elapses from the point of full parachute deployment to ground impact of the parachuted load.

**PERSONNEL DROP:** Introduction of personnel into an area by parachute from an aircraft in flight.

**PRINCIPAL AGENT:** Agent who is responsible for recruitment, control and operational direction of other agents.

**RECEPTION:** All ground arrangements connected with air drop and landing operations. Includes selecting, reporting, marking and identification of drop and landing zones, and the organization and conduct of air reception operations.

**RECEPTION COMMITTEE (RC):** A group of persons who carry out ground arrangements for air reception. See RECEPTION.

**RECEPTION COMMITTEE LEADER (RCL):** The leader of a group who makes the ground arrangements for air reception.

**RELEASE POINT:** A marked point on the ground, pre-selected by the reception committee and visible from an aircraft in flight, indicating the desired exit point of parachutists or cargo containers.

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**RESISTANCE:** Actions by underground resistance groups of predominantly indigenous origin to reduce the military, economic, psychological, or political potential of an enemy.

**SAFEHOUSE:** A house or premises having an innocent appearance but controlled by a clandestine organization, where covert activity may take place in relative security. The term safe site is usually employed to denote a place other than a house which in like manner affords relative security for a clandestine purpose. An agent who serves as caretaker of a safehouse is called a safehouse keeper.

**STERILIZE:** Removal of traces or tracks from a drop or landing zone caused by operations conducted thereon.

**TARGET:** Generally, a country or area against which clandestine or covert operations are directed.

**TARGET APPROACH POINT (TAP):** A NATO term. See INITIAL POINT.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** The surface configuration of a place or region, including its relief, the position of its streams, lakes, roads, cities, etc.

**TRACK:** The path of an aircraft above the surface of the earth, usually expressed as an angle measured clockwise from magnetic north.

**TRADECRAFT:** Fundamental techniques and methods employed in clandestine agent operations.

**WIND DRIFT:** The horizontal distance traveled by parachuted personnel or cargo containers from point of full parachute deployment to the point of landing as a result of wind conditions.

**W/T:** Wireless telegraphy. Adopted from the British, now generally used to denote communication by clandestine radio.

**WITTING:** Knowledgeable as to certain aspects of a clandestine organization, its activities and sponsor.

SECRET (When Filled In)

AREA OR COUNTRY(S)	ORGANIZATION(S)	GENERAL FUNCTION(S)	SPECIFIC FUNCTION(S)	DOC DATE CLASS <u>S</u>
Hq.	DDP OTR	SUP	Glossary Training Definitions	Oct. 1953 Oct. 1959 Sep. 1964

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT

Three Booklets, Subject: Glossary of Operational Terminology

ABSTRACT NOTATION REFERENCES

These glossaries were compiled for the use of instructors, trainees and other personnel concerned with clandestine intelligence operations.

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